

## Projects Funded by Critical Area Offset Fees

**Riparian Forest Enhancement Project:** This forest enhancement project is being implemented by the Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks. It targets forested parkland in need of restoration due to infestation by invasive species. During the initial pilot project, 5 City Parks were inventoried, then restoration and management plans were developed and implemented. As part of the effort to preserve and enhance the City's forests, the Tree Steward and the Weed Warrior initiatives are also running under this project.



**Impervious Surface Removal at John Eager Howard Elementary School:** This project was a collaboration between the Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks, the Baltimore City Public School System, Timberline, the Downtown Locker Room and area residents. Critical Area offset fees were used to create tree planting areas in the sidewalks surrounding the school and to remove nearly an acre of asphalt on the school's property, which was then replaced with topsoil and sod. As a match to the Critical Area funds, during one long day with hundreds of volunteers, fences were removed, playground equipment was repaired and replaced, murals were painted, work was done on the interior of the school, the school grounds were landscaped and street trees were planted in the newly created planting areas. In one rainy day, the school went from grey to green.



**Urban Street Tree Planting and Replacement Project:** Working with the Baltimore City Division of Forestry, Critical Area offset fees purchased 440 trees that were planted along Baltimore's streets.

**Watershed 263 Community Grant Program:** In partnership with the Parks and People Foundation, this Program funded 16 community based environmental restoration projects in Watershed 263 (southwest Baltimore). As part of this effort, 3 schoolyards were greened, 106 tree planting areas were created in sidewalks, and 167 trees were planted.

**Operation Reachout Southwest Open Space Management Program:** This program, run by the Bon Secours Foundation, used Critical Area offset funds to convert abandoned lots into green spaces in the southwest corridor of Baltimore. The Foundation then maintained them with the help of area businesses and residents.



**Key Highway Beautification Project:** During the reconstruction and beautification of Key Highway, Critical Area offset fees will assist in the creation of green landscaped areas and tree-lined medians. Other funds will provide a bicycle lane and better pedestrian facilities.

**Maisel Street:** Critical Area offset funds were used to purchase privately owned property at the 11+ acre Resource Conservation site. Surrounding communities have reforested the site, it has recently been transferred to Recreation and Parks, and the roads will be removed soon by the Maryland Port Authority.





**School Greening:** In partnership with DPW, 4 acres of asphalt (in total) was removed from 5 Baltimore City Public School System schoolyards. The new pervious areas were then planted with sod and trees, creating a friendlier environment for Baltimore's youth. This effort is being continued by the Maryland Port Authority and developers as offset mitigation for their projects.



**War Memorial Plaza:** In partnership with the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks, Critical Area offset fees were used to reduce the amount of impervious surfaces in the plaza and replace them with gardens, grass, trees.



**Middle Branch Wetland Habitat Creation:** This is a commitment for the creation of wetland habitat on the Middle Branch.

**Elmley Park and Play Lot:** In partnership with the Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks, Critical Area offset fees removed over one-half acre of asphalt from this community park and replaced it with topsoil and grass. Using other funds, the asphalt removal was followed by a community tree planting and a new tot lot.



**Fort Holabird Park:** Critical Area offset funds will be used to remove 1.8 acres of impervious surfaces from the park which is a designated Resource Conservation Area. Additional mitigation projects have already taken place in the park, including tree plantings and removal of the old tennis courts and other impervious surfaces. The playground came from Project Open Space.



**Cylburn Arboretum:** As part of the renovation and restoration of Cylburn, Critical Area offset funds will be used to purchase native trees, shrubs and other plants.

**Schoolyard Greening Program:** This program, run by the Parks & People Foundation, will work with students and teachers in 5 schools to plant trees and landscape their schoolyards. Critical Area offset fees will provide the trees and other landscaping supplies; funds from other sources will provide environmental education for the youth.

**Growing Home Program:** Critical Area offset fees will assist this program which provides incentives to residents to plant trees on their property as part of the TreeBaltimore initiative—to double Baltimore’s tree canopy. Additionally, the program provides education on how to select and plant trees, tree care and the value of trees.

**Inner Harbor Bio-Retention Area:** As the new Jones Falls Trail is built around the Inner Harbor, Critical Area offset fees will build bio-retention areas with trees, shrubs and native perennials. These areas will filter stormwater before it reaches the harbor. Additionally, there will be educational signs that will be seen by an estimated 4 million people a year who visit the harbor.

**Graceland\ O’Donnell Elementary School Project:** Critical Area offset funds were used to remove excess concrete and asphalt from around the school in preparation for a new playground and trees.

**BRANCHES (Building Resources And Nurturing Community Health And Environmental Stewardship):** For the last 3 summers, Critical Area offset funds have assisted this youth program, run by a partnership between the Baltimore City Department of Recreation & Parks



and the Parks & People Foundation. The program uses the offset fees to restore and maintain the forests and riparian buffers located in City's public parks. By partnering with the Office of Youth Opportunity, this program provides employment, career development and environmental training for Baltimore City youth.

